

REMARKS

In the present application, 21 claims were examined and rejected. In response, Applicants are submitting the following remarks. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

Double Patenting Rejection

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 - 21 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-14 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,613,968 (the '968 Patent). Specifically, the Examiner stated that "claims 1 - 21 are a verbatim copy of claims 1 - 14" of the '968 Patent. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Upon a closer reading, the independent claims of the present application contain broader subject matter than the independent claims of the '968 Patent. Therefore, the claims of the present application are not a verbatim copy of the claims of the '968 Patent. As such, the statutory type double patenting rejection of claims 1 - 21 should be withdrawn.

Interview Summary

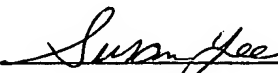
On March 16, 2004, Applicants' representative conducted a phone interview with the Examiner regarding the statutory type double patenting rejection. During the phone interview, the Examiner agreed that the claims of the present application are not a verbatim copy of the '968 Patent, and that the statutory type double patenting rejection will be withdrawn. The Examiner also indicated that the next office action will not be a final office action.

Based on these remarks, Applicants believe the Office Action of January 14, 2004 has been responded to in full, and expect the statutory type double patenting rejection to be withdrawn. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon C. Devereaux et al.

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By: 

Susan Yee
Carr & Ferrell LLP
2200 Geng Road
Palo Alto, CA 95054
Phone: (650) 812-3400
Fax: (650) 812-3444